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BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

-: of the :-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1956.

A. BARLOW. M.B., Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

BRIERFIELD.

Lancashire.

July, 1957.

TO:- The Chairman and Members of
Brierfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No.17/55, an Interim Report on the lines of the previous Reports is presented for this year. It includes only essential or urgent matters, which have affected Public Health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, so far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

I have pleasure, therefore, in submitting for your consideration the following interim report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1956 according to the Rate Book was 2,562, the rateable value being £67,437 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £281. 0. 0.

The social conditions were generally quite good. The chief industry is cotton weaving, with a small amount of spinning and dyeing.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. The population as estimated by the Regirtrar General for mid 1956 is 6,830.

BIRTHS. 79 Live Births belonging to the district occurred during 1956, as follows :-

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	51	25	76
(Illegitimate)	2	1	3
	53	26	79
Still Births (Legitimate)	-	1	1
(illegitimate)	-	-	-

Comparative particulars with regards to live births over the last five years are given in the following tables :-

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Total Live Births	79	99	87	99	90
Crude Birth rate per 1000 estimated popln.	12.8	14.5	12.6	14.4	12.9
Adjusted Rate.	13.0	16.0			

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

(a) All infants per 1000 live Births 51

(b) Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 39.5

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

(a) Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age 2

(b) Mortality Rate per 1000 live births 25

Comparative particulars with regards to infant mortality over the last five years are given in the following tables.

1955.	1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.
10	23	30	22	10

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

(a) Deaths from Childbirth, Pregnancy and abortion. Nil

(b) Mortality Rate per 1000 total live and still births Nil

DEATHS.

112 Deaths belonging to the district occurred during 1956 as follows :-

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths within the Urban District	35	43	78
Deaths outside the Urban District (in Hospitals Institutions etc.)	25	9	34
	60	52	112

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following tables.

	1956.	1955.	1954.	1953.	1952
Total Deaths	112	112	101	89	90
Crude Death rate per 1000 estmd. population.	16.4	16.4	14.6	13.4	13.1
Adjusted Rate	15.7	14.6			

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1956.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 yr.	5-15	15-25	25-65	Over 65	TOTAL.
Syphilitic Diseases.					1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.					1	1
" Lung and Bronchus.				4		4
" Breast.				1		1
" Uterus.				2		2
Other Neoplasms.				3	8	11
Diabetes					1	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	1			3	13	17
Coronary disease, Angina.				9	14	23
Hypertension with Heart DISEASE					3	3
HEART Disease.				7	11	18
Other circulatory diseases.				1	3	4
Influenza				1		1
Pneumonia.	2			1	1	4
Bronchitis.					2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system.				1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis.				1	1	2
Congenital Malformations.	1					1
Other defined and ill-defined causes.					5	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents.				1		1
All other accidents.				2	2	4
Suicide.				2	2	4
	4	-	-	39	69	112

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1956.

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
	2		2		Nil		Nil	

CASES ON THE REGISTER AT THE 31st December, 1956.

On the register at the end of December, 1956, there were 38 cases of Tuberculosis (30 Pulmonary and 8 Non-Pulmonary) as follows :-

	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	TOTAL
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	8	7	4	5	5	1	30
Non-Pulmonary								
Cervical glands	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	3
Testis	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Both Legs.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Abdomen.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hip.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	3	8	7	7	6	6	1	38

As all these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer, we have no direct information about the number of cases receiving allowances.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this Clinic.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There are no special workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

LABORATORY WORK.

This work is carried out at the Pathological Laboratory, Salus Street, Burnley, as and when necessary.

The Lancashire County Council provides and maintains the following :-

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Urban District is serviced by ambulances from the Divisional Ambulance Station at Reedley and both ambulance and sitting case cars are available.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

The Infant Welfare Centre for the Urban District is held weekly under the supervision of Nurse Bush, S.R.N., S.C.M.,H.V.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

There is one District Midwife assigned to Brierfield who resides within the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Per 1000 Estimated Population. Crude Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.
Mean of 5 years 1951 - 55	13.8	15.2
Year 1955	14.5	16.4
Year 1956	12.8	16.4
Increase or decrease in 1956 on 5 years average 1951-55	-1.0	+1.2
Previous year	-1.7	Nil

	MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE. per 1000 Live Births.	Per 1000 Live and Stillbirths	DEATH RATE of Infants under 1 yr per 1000 Live Births
Mean of 5 years 1951-55	-	-	19.0.
Year 1955	-	-	10.0.
Year 1956	-	-	51.0
Increase or decrease in 1956 on 5 years average 1951-55	-	-	+32.0
Previous Year	-	-	+41.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES	UNDER 1 yr.	1- 3	3- 5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 25	25- 65	65& Ovr.	Total cases Rem'd to Hospital	Deaths in Hosp of pers belonging to Dist.
Measles	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	15	2	2	3	7	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ac.Prim. Pneumonia	8	1	-	1	1	1	-	3	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	8	2	-	1	4	-	-	1	-	-	-
Meningoccal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
	40	5	2	8	15	2	2	5	1	2	-

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary, Cleansing and Sewage Committee:- Chairman, Councillor Birtwhistle, Vice-Chairman, Councillor Clegg, Councillors Atkinson, Greenwood, Johnson, Kinder, Lindow, Parker, Taylor, Twist, Williams and Woodcock.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. A. Barlow.
Qualifications:-	M.B., Ch.B.
Duties:-	Part time, Practitioner and Treasury Medical Officer.
Public Health Inspector.	B. Duerden, M.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 20th December, 1956)
Qualifications:-	Certificate R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. Certificate R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods. Certificate R.S.I. Smoke Inspector.
Duties:-	All normal Public Health Inspector's duties.

WATER SUPPLIES. Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of Nelson Corporation, and there were no new sources of supply during the year. The water is of good quality and in good supply, apart from a few houses in the Marsden Heights area, where the supply is intermittent and a few houses in various streets where probably the joint service pipes are too small. All dwellinghouses within the district except one, are supplied direct from public mains. The one exception which is sup lied by spring water, is an isolated farm dwelling situated a considerable distance from the nearest public main.

During the year the Nelson Water Dept., did a considerable amount of work in the re-servicing of terraced property where the existing main was inadequate; 31 premises being re-serviced from new mains.

Supplies to Houses. The number of houses supplied direct from Public Mains is 2561.

There were no extensions of the water mains during the year.

WATER SAMPLING.

(a) Public Main. Number of Bacteriological examinations 8
Results. In one sample taken during September a small B. Cli count was obtained.

(b) Private Supply. No. of Bacteriological examinations 8
Results. Five samples satisfactory but in the other samples B. Coli counts were obtained.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the Disposal Works at the lowest part of the District. Treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks. The effluent from the works is discharged into Pendle Water.

DRAINAGE etc. Number of drains inspected during the year 148

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Privy Middens. Nil.

Number of Pail Closets. There are 7 at isolated dwellings. These are emptied weekly by Council employees.

Number of Fresh Water Closets. 1467.

Number of Waste Water Closets. 1330.

Conversions during the year.

No. of pail closets to fresh water closets.	Nil.
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets.	38
No. of houses on water carriage system	2557

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENT OF THE DISTRICT. The conversion of waste water closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. This was carried out by direct labour with a three ton "Thames" Refuse vehicle. Domestic Refuse and refuse from shops, mills etc., was collected weekly free of charge and disposed of by controlled tipping on the Council's tip.

Number of moveable ashbins. 2831.

Salvage Work. The collection of salvage has been maintained and the following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year.

	Weights.			Materials	Amount realised.		
	T.	c.	q.		£.	s.	d.
	124.	16.	2.	Waste Paper.	1025.	1.	9.
	1.	16.	2.	Rags.	38.	16.	11.
	5.	13.	3.	Scrap Metal.	27.	18.	0.
Total	132.	6.	3.	Total	£1091.	16.	8.

For comparison purposes the statistics relating to the last four years are as follows :-

Year	Weight of Salvage.			Total Revenue.		
	T.	C.	Q.	£.	s.	d.
1952	134.	2.	0.	1265.	10.	3.
1953	154.	18.	3.	871.	0.	3.
1954	132.	2.	1.	926.	9.	10.
1955	152.	9.	3.	1167.	13.	5.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1956 (including Housing).

No. of Complaints received.	178
No. of Premises visited.	631
No. of visits made.	917
No. of defects or nuisances discovered.	177
N. of defects remedied.	126
No. of Notices served (Statutory)	8
(Informal)	126

DISINFESTATION. Five dwellings were disinfested during the year for cockroach infestation and two dwellings for earwigs. Gammexane smoke generators were used and Vermicine spray.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no caravans or sites licenced under the Public Health Act, 1936.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951. One shop was re-licenced under the Act, the premises being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

H O U S I N G.

CONDITION. The majority of the houses are terraced, stone built and from 30 to 70 years old. The later types are brick built and mainly semi-detached. Many are owner/occupier and well maintained. There are still vacant houses for sale within the district, the majority of owners being reluctant to re-let.

BACK TO BACK HOUSES. There are 17 such houses, the majority being extremely well maintained and in good condition.

NEW BUILDINGS. No new houses were erected by the Local Authority during 1956.
Seven new houses were completed during the year by private enterprise.

Over-crowding. No new cases were reported during the year.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts.	130
(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made.	298
(c)	Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit.	119

CLEARANCE AREAS. Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwellinghouses demolished during the year	Nil
Number of persons displaced.	Nil.

Houses not included in Clearance Areas. Housing Act, 1936.

(1)(a)	Demolished as a result ot formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	2
(b)	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.	2
(11)	Number of persons displaced	4
(111)	Parts of Buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil.
	Number of persons displaced.	Nil.

Repairs during the year.

(a)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	86

(b) Public Health Act - action after service of formal notice, houses in which defects were remedied,
(i) By owners 9
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.
(c) Housing Act, 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9,10,11 and 16) houses made fit:-
(i) By owners 2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of distributors registered by the Local Authority and operating from :-

(a) Dairies in the district 5
(b) Premises outside the district. 13
(c) Shops in the district other than dairies. 28

Number of dealers licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the Local Authority during 1956 in respect of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk :- 15

Number of Licences in respect of "Heat Treated Milk". Pasteurised 7
Sterilised 32

MILK SAMPLING.

Type of test.	No. of Samples.	Results.
Biological	12	All satisfactory.
Methylene Blue.	12	11 satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory.

The Area Milk Production Officer was notifed of the one unsatisfactory sample.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES. There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the district.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES.

Four ice cream samples were obtained from manufacturers and retailers within the district during the year. The Public Health Laboratory reported that all four samples were satisfactory

FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning during the year.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following items of unsound food were condemned during 1956 :-

4 lbs. Luncheon Meat.
5¾ lbs. Cooked Ham.
6 lbs. Corned Beef.

FOOD PREMISES. Number of Food premises by type of business in the district at the end of 1956.

Type of Business.		No. of Inspections.
Premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold.	23	45
Butchers and Meat Products shops.	13	23
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	6	2
Bakehouses.	13	22
Greengrocers and wet fish.	6	9
Grocers	34	21
Inns.	10	4
Other premises including clubs canteens and snack bars	17	22

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under Local Acts.

Type of Business.	No. registered.	No. of inspections of registered premises during the year.
Butchers and Meat Products.	9	23
Bakehouses.	7	22
Premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold.	23	45

During May, 1956, all premises in the district where sausages, preserved and cooked meats, and ice cream were manufactured, prepared, stored or sold, were re-registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

	On Register.	Insptns.	Written Notices
(1) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	4	2
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	48	46	9
	52	50	11

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Number of Factory chimneys in the district.	5
Observations taken during the year.	4
Smoke nuisances discovered.	Nil.

RODENT CONTROL.

Two treatments of the Council's sewage system were carried out during the year. 228 man-holes were baited and 76 showed pre-bait takes on one or more days. In addition the following infested properties were treated by the Rodent Operative.

Local Authority Property.	Dwellinghouses.	Business Premises.
3	10	6